



# Crop Progress and Condition

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Virginia State University  
Virginia Cooperative Extension Service  
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

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**Agricultural News:** Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.7. Field activities for the week included harvesting apples, corn, and peanuts, and planting barley and winter wheat. Temperatures were down and precipitation amounts increased; some areas received more than two inches of rain. High temperatures were in the 80s, and lows were mostly in the 50s. Moisture conditions have greatly improved with rain, but now some crop harvest has been delayed.

### SOIL MOISTURE for week ending 09/27/15

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	7	34	53	6
Subsoil	6	38	55	1

- Represents zero.

### CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 09/27/15

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Corn	1	4	20	57	18
Cotton	-	-	23	74	3
Hay, Alfalfa	-	18	35	44	3
Hay, Other	3	27	31	36	3
Peanuts	-	-	26	72	2
Soybeans	1	13	33	49	4
Pasture	7	21	38	30	4
Livestock	1	7	24	54	14

-Represents zero.

### CROP PROGRESS for week ending 09/27/15

Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Apples harvested	80	72	42	-
Barley planted	20	10	26	27
Corn dented	96	93	94	96
Corn mature	90	81	84	87
Corn for grain harvested	60	48	47	64
Corn for silage harvested	90	79	92	88
Cotton bolls opening	80	65	76	77
Peanuts harvested	7	5	2	2

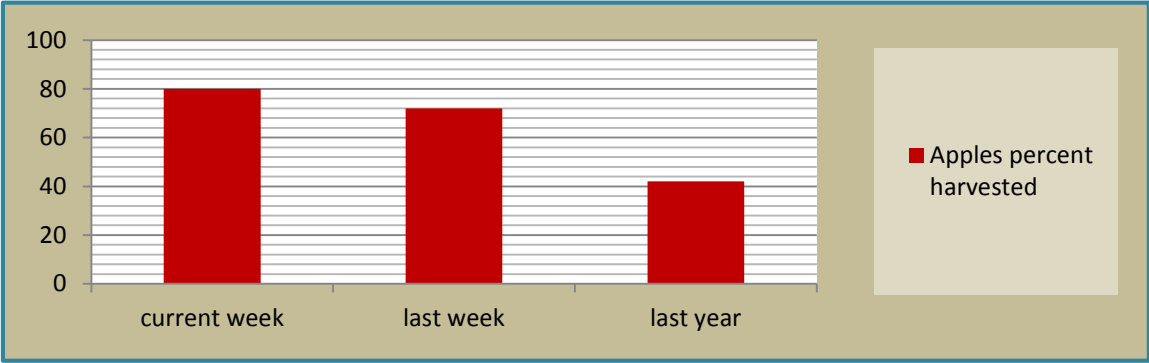
- Represents data not available.

CROP PROGRESS for week ending 09/27/15

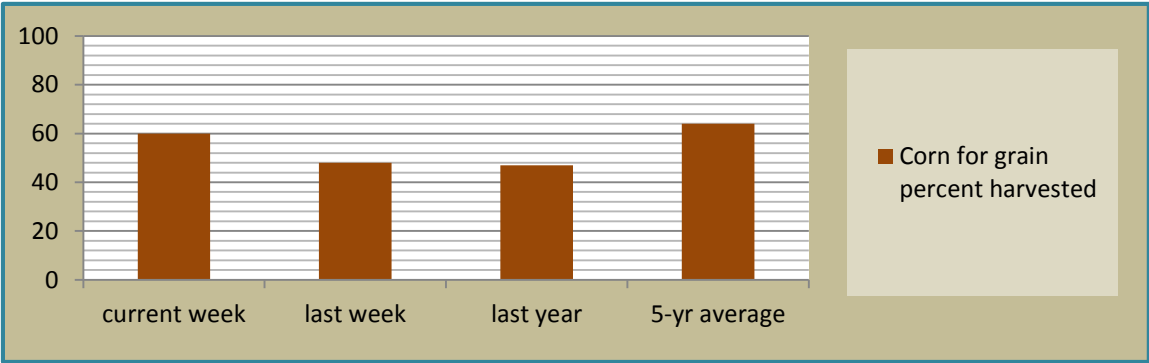
Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Soybeans setting pods	97	93	98	99
Soybeans dropping leaves	42	28	36	40
Tobacco, Flue-cured cut	80	72	70	73
Winter wheat planted	7	4	9	12

- Represents data not available.

APPLES HARVESTED for week ending 09/27/15



CORN FOR GRAIN HARVESTED for week ending 09/27/15



Weather Summary- For the week ending September 27, 2015

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Sept. 26	Mar. 1 to Sept. 26 norm	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	71	57	81	56	64	-1	3680	3488	2.47	2.63	-0.65	27.37	-5.60
Norfolk	77	70	80	67	73	2	4343	3876	0.43	3.61	0.08	36.73	1.07
Richmond	77	62	82	56	70	2	4280	3769	0.56	2.54	-0.84	35.24	1.68
Roanoke	71	59	82	55	65	-1	3875	NA	3.23	4.33	1.00	35.74	2.96
Wash/Dulles	75	58	80	52	66	1	3718	NA	0.40	0.72	-2.55	28.02	-3.46

\* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. NA-Not available. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY – Comments are based on remarks made by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

PRINCE WILLIAM (Page Thacker)  
No rain this weekend despite cloudy weather.

WESTERN

BOTETOURT (Kate Lawrence)  
Botetourt got about an inch of rain this week which was much needed. Fall grass and pastures have seen a major turnaround.

**ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)**

All of Rockbridge received at least .75 of an inch of rain that fell gently over the 48 hour period that ended the week. This dramatically improved topsoil moisture and prospects for fall stockpiling of pastures.

**CENTRAL**

**AMELIA (Laura Siegle)**

We had three days of rain over the weekend, delaying some planting and harvest chores. We have a lot of producers planting and re-seeding pastures and hay land this week. Most soybean fields are now dropping leaves or nearing leaf drop.

**APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)**

Most of the dark tobacco is completely cured, but "smoking" will continue during these wet conditions to keep tobacco as dry as needed. Burley tobacco harvest is getting close to completion and the tobacco looks good in the barns. Flue tobacco harvest is still well under way with barn capacity and wet field conditions being the major obstacles.

**EASTERN**

**ESSEX (Keith Balderson)**

Farmers continued harvesting corn and planting cover crops. Rainfall for the week was relatively light at .25 to .50 of an inch. A good soaking rain would be nice right now to help with cover crop emergence and to restore topsoil moisture prior to wheat planting. Wheat acreage will most likely be down this fall due to low prices.

**SOUTHWESTERN**

**CARROLL (Steve Pottorff)**

Much needed rain fell Friday and Saturday.

**GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)**

The week ended with slow, steady rain for four straight days. The rain was much needed though harvest activities have come to a halt. Four to six inches of rain fell with most soaking in. It will take a few days of drying conditions for harvest to resume.

**SMYTH (Andy Overbay)**

Heavy rains over the weekend helped bring much needed moisture to fields and pastures. Wheat and rye seeding is progressing behind corn silage. Much of the burley tobacco crop is being harvested as cooler weather sets in.

**SOUTHERN**

**LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)**

We got what we asked for! About 4 inches of rain came in Thursday to Sunday. It came slow enough that the ground was able to absorb it without much trouble. We are thankful! Temperatures dropped this week. Soybean leaves have dropped like flies in the drought; hopefully this rain will help with final filling. Milo looks good for the most part, although these cooler days may keep the later crop from finishing well. Grain corn harvest is complete with very good yields this year - everyone who planted is pleased, everyone who didn't is kicking themselves. A small amount of beans have been harvested. Things are wet but should dry out and allow harvest to proceed. A happy start to the week.

**SOUTHEASTERN**

**MECKLENBURG (Taylor Clarke)**

We need some sun now that moisture conditions have improved.

**PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)**

Corn harvest continued this week until the weekend rains. Very good yields have been reported. A few early maturity soybeans were harvested this week.

**SUSSEX (Kevin Wells)**

Scattered showers fell over most of the area to put a stop to the fall harvest season. Flue-cured tobacco harvest is coming to an end, peanut digging and harvest is underway. Corn harvest is coming to an end and cotton defoliation has started. Yields for corn could be a record; peanut and cotton yields will be average.